

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9, 12, and 14-17 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-5, 9, and 12 having been amended, Claims 14-17 having been added, and Claims 6-8, 10-11, and 13 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 9, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sinnarajah et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0203655 A1, hereinafter "Sinnarajah") in view of Vänskä et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,047,041 B2, hereinafter "Vänskä").

In light of the several grounds of rejection on the merits, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 12 to clarify the claimed invention and thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied references.

Amended Claim 1 recites a communication apparatus, including, in part,

means for obtaining a callsign of a broadcasting station
in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the
callsign identifies the broadcasting station; . . .

the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmission means . . . for transmitting
available/unavailable request information that requests
information showing whether or not said external device offers
a service providing said related information about the contents,
if said user personal information is not detected by said
detection means; [and]

notification means . . . for receiving
available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said
external device offers said service, in reply to said

¹ The amendments to Claims 1, 9, and 12 find support at least in Claim 2 and in Figure 9 and its accompanying text in the specification.

available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means

Applicants respectfully submit that Sinnarajah and Vänskä fail to disclose or suggest these features.

Sinnarajah is directed to user utilization of broadcast contents received at a subject subscriber-station.² Sinnarajah explains that “the subject subscriber-station works with the subject base station to evaluate whether its user’s desired program (if any) is available from that base station.”³ In one embodiment of Sinnarajah, “the subscriber-station queries the base station for the broadcast lineup, presents this program listing to the user, and receives the user’s program selection.”⁴ Sinnarajah explains that, after this querying, “the base station begins transmitting, and the subscriber-station begins receiving, the desired broadcast program on an individual, point-to-point, traffic channel.”⁵

That is, Sinnarajah merely describes querying a base station for a broadcast lineup and then receiving a desired broadcast program from that base station. Applicants respectfully submit that Sinnarajah does not disclose or suggest “transmission means . . . for transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about” “the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station” and that “[a] callsign identifies the broadcasting station,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

It is further submitted that Sinnarajah fails to disclose transmission means that transmit available/unavailable request information on the condition “if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Vänskä is not relied upon by the Office for suggesting “said transmission means transmits available/unavailable request information that requests information showing

² E.g., Sinnarajah, para. [0037].

³ Id., para. [0081].

⁴ Id., para. [0087].

⁵ Id., para. [0103].

whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about contents.”⁶ Applicants respectfully submit that Vänskä does not include such a teaching or suggestion.

Thus, Sinnarajah and Vänskä, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the transmission means recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, Applicants submit that no proper combination of Sinnarajah and Vänskä discloses or suggests “notification means . . . for receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, *if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means*,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicants further submit that independent Claims 9 and 12 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over Sinnarajah and Vänskä for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented in these claims.

Applicants have added new Claims 14-17 to set forth the claimed invention in a varying scope. Applicants respectfully submit new Claims 14-16 find support at least in Claims 3-5, and new Claim 17 finds support at least in Claim 1. Applicants further submit that no new matter is added. It is additionally submitted that Claims 14-16 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies and for the more detailed features presented by these new claims. Further, it is submitted that new Claim 17 patentably distinguishes over Sinnarajah and Vänskä for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented in Claim 17.

⁶ Office Action, at 5, ll. 5-8.

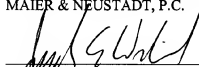
Consequently, in light of above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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